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HEALTH

THE MAGUINDANAO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROJECT (MTCP) - Catholic Relief Services



GOAL

To contribute to the reduction of tuberculosis (TB) morbidity and mortality in the province of Maguindanao.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Increase the detection rate of smear positive TB by September 2009
2. Increase the cure rate of smear positive cases from by September 2009

PROJECT COMPONENTS

1. **Advocacy and social mobilization.**
Increasing local government unit (LGU) participation in TB control, i.e., LGUs recognizing and prioritizing TB as a public health problem, and allocating resources for TB control, community education and providing TB patients access to health care. As frontline workers at the community level, Barangay Health Workers are trained to improve their skills in social control for quality TB services.
2. **Quality assurance.** Strengthening laboratory facilities for sputum smear microscopy as well as improving the skills of the LGU health staff and private practitioners in TB case diagnosis and treatment of new positive cases.
3. **Behavior change communication.**
Enabling the project's various target audiences to change behavior or adopt new behaviors appropriate in TB prevention and control. It also involves using the tri-media approach, including the production of appropriate communication materials.

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

Maguindanao is the largest of the provinces that comprise the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Before the new province of Shariff Kabunsuan was carved out of it in 2006, Maguindanao had a population of more 801,192, according to the 2000 census, with an annual growth rate of 4.16%. More than half of the population lives below the poverty threshold, more than one-third have had no formal schooling, and the under-five mortality is significantly higher than the national average.

TB is a serious problem in Maguindanao. It has a high estimated incidence rate, while the case detection rate and the cure rate are much lower than the national average.

With funding from USAID/Washington, Catholic Relief Services has been working in Maguindanao since 2005 in four areas: breastfeeding and nutrition, diarrhea case management, pneumonia case management and immunization.



A health worker is the Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) treatment partner of this TB patient under the Maguindanao TB Control Project.

The Maguindanao TB Control Project (2005-2009) is implemented jointly by the Integrated Provincial Health Office of Maguindanao and CRS and is centrally funded by the USAID Bureau of Global Health under the Child Survival and Health Grants Program.